

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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-----102210Z 111794 /70

O 101850Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5842
INFO AMEMBASY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 1817

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, PFOR, CG, AO
SUBJECT: ANGOLAN PROTEST TO UNHCR

REF: A. STATE 52404 B. KINSHASA 2064 C. GENEVA 1468

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TEXTS
OF MESSAGES CITED REF A, WHICH ARE REPEATED BELOW IN
INFORMAL TRANSLATION

A. UNHCR LUANDA MESSAGE NO. 86, MARCH 8, 1915Z
REPORTING ANGOLAN COMMUNIQUE: QUOTE

HEAD: MESSAGE FROM BWAKIRA DATED MARCH 8, 1915Z RECEIVED UN
HCRHQ, MARCH 89.

1. THIS AFTERNOON AT 1600 HOURS, I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE SUMMONS
TO MEET WITH
THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, COMRADE ROBERTO DE ALMEIDA, TEM-
PORARILY IN CHARGE DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE MINISTER IN CAIRO.

2. UPON ARRIVAL AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY I WAS MET BY ALL THE
MEMBERS OF THE RADIO, TV, AND PRESS CORPS. I WAS INVITED
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TO GO INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THE PRESS. DISTURBED OVER THIS
COINCIDENCE, I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO ASK HIM THE

PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING. EVIDENTLY GIVING UP THE IDEA OF HAVING
ME FACE THE PRESS, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ORIGINALLY INTENDED,
HE GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING TEXT IN PORTUGUESE, OF WHICH MY INFORMAL
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

" THE DELEGATE OF THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT FOR REFUGEES IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, COMRADE NICOLAS BWAKIRA, RECEIVED FROM THE COMRADE DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE:
THE UN HIGH COMMISSARIAT FOR REFUGEES IS AN ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL NATURE WHICH WAS CREATED TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN NUMEROUS COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF WARS AND OTHER FACTORS WHICH CAUSE THOUSANDS OF PERSONS TO BE DISPLACED, EITHER IN OTHER COUNTRIES OR WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.
THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GOVERN THIS UNITED NATIONS BODY ARE DERIVED FROM ITS OWN NATURE AND ARE IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH THE FACTORS WHICH LED TO ITS CREATION THE UNHCR CANNOT SERVE THE SPECIAL INTERESTS OF A PARTICULAR COUNTRY, IN OTHER WORDS IT SHOULD OBSERVE A POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY. IN THIS PRINCIPLE, IN THIS WELL-DEFINED ORIENTATION, SUPPORTED BY THE BODY OF NATIONS, THE AGENTS OF THE UNHCR CANNOT FUNCTION CLOSE TO BORDER AREAS WHERE REFUGEES ARE SITUATED, AND PARTICULARLY IN CASES WHERE THESE REFUGEES ARE ARMED.
WE ARE AWARE THAT FOREIGN AGENCIES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OPERATING IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, UNDER PRETEXTS OF HUMANITARIAN GOALS AND WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF VIOLATING THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE POLICY UPON WHICH THE WORK OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSARIAT WAS ESTABLISHED, REPUDIATING IT (THE POLICY), PLACING IN QUESTION THIS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND CREATING CONDITIONS WHICH

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VIOLATE THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE INSECURITY (SIC) OF OUR COUNTRY. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OPERATION COBRA 77, WHICH WE DENOUNCED TOWARD THE END OF FEBRUARY, REF C, THESE MANEUVERS CANNOT ESCAPE OUR ATTENTION AND REVEAL THE EXACT SCOPE OF THE INTENTIONS OF ITS SPONSORS.
ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE ALERTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, WITH THE PURPOSE OF REVEALING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF IMPERIALISM AND ITS LACKEYS NOT ONLY IN THIS CLEAR AND GROSS ATTEMPT TO AGGRESSIVELY INTERFERE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT ALSO IN THE ATTEMPT TO MANIPULATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CREATED FOR PURELY HUMANITARIAN GOALS. IN DEFENDING AN IMPLACABLE FASHING STRICT RESPECT ON THE PART OF ALL COUNTRIES FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF NEUTRALITY WHICH GOVERN THE ACTIVITY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WE DECLARE WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION THAT WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN AND PEACEFUL NATION, ORIENTED TOWARD FULFILLING THE INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE, ENGAGED IN RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY, AND THAT WE WILL PURSUE INEXORABLE THE COURSE WHICH WE HAVE SET FOR

OURSELVES.

LUANDA MARCH 8,1977

3. THE ACTING MINISTER PROMISED ME MORE SPECIFICS TOMORROW AT 1630. I WOULD INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE END OF THIS TEXT IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE DECLARATION MADE BY THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING OPERATION COBRA, WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE DECLARATION WAS APPROVED BY THE HIGHEST OFFICIALS. WE WOULD LIKE TO UNDERScore ESPECIALLY THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 2, THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 3, AND THE LINKAGE WITH OPERATION COBRA.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THE VERY SEVERE TONE AND THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE WHICH MARKED THE THREE MINUTE CONVERSATION, ABOUT WHICH I HAD NEITHER FOREWARNING AS TO SUBJECT NOR EXPLANATIONS AT THE SCENE. I NOTE THAT DURING THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT ON FEBRUARY 24 WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS I WAS INVITED ONLY AS I AM NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ANY MEETING OF THIS NATURE. CONFIDENTIAL

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MOREOVER,THE TERMS OF THE COMMUNIQUE ARE VERY SEVERE AND WE FEAR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REPERCUSSION.

5. WE URGENTLY REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR TOMORROW'S MEETING AND TO RESPOND ULTIMATELY TO QUESTIONS OF NEWSMEN. WE SUGGEST PUBLICATION OF A PRESS COMMUNIQUE BY HEADQUARTERS COPIES OF WHICH WE MIGHT PROVIDE TO THE AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL PRESS. THIS COMMUNIQUE SHOULD INDICATE THE NAMES OF THE LOCATIONS WHERE WE ARE CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES,THE NATURE OF THESE ACTIVITIES, AND DATES. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHED ALL THE LIGHT WE CAN ON THIS SUBJECT AND IMMEDIATELY, TO PUT IN ORDER AND END TO THIS CONTROVERSY. BWAKIRA

B. ON MARCH 9, BWAKIRA SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
NO. 87 TO UNHCR GENEVA ON SAME SUBJECT: QUOTE

"THE ANGOLA JOURNAL (JOURNAL DE ANGOLA) PUBLISHES TODAY A FOUR-

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-----102214Z 111992 /70

O 101850Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 GENEVA 1817

COLUMN ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE, WHICH FOLLOWS, WITH A PHOTO
OF THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER READING THE COMMUNIQUE THAT HAS
ALREADY BEEN SENT.
TRANSLATION FOLLOWS OF THE ARTICLE WHICH PRECEDES THE COMMUNIQUE:

BANNER LINE: UNDER COVER OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION.
HEADLINE: AGGRESSIVE ATTACK ON ANGOLA THROUGH INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCHED BY IMPERIALISM.
TEXT: "ONCE AGAIN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
ANGOLA (PRA)
THROUGH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMES BEFORE THE AN-
GOLAN PEOPLE TO DENOUNCE AN ATTEMPTED MANIPULATION BY THE IM-
PERIALISTS OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MISSION IT IS TO ASSIST THE RPA IN THIS
DIFFICULT PHASE OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY,"
COMRADE ROBERTO DE ALMEIDE, PRA DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS DECLARED YESTERDAY EVENING TO THE PRESS.
ON THIS OCCASION, BEFORE READING A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MINISTRY
ALERTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION TO A NEW
"BRUTAL ATTEMPT OF AGGRESSIVE INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS,
COMRADE ROBERTO DE ALMEIDA GAVE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION.
AFTER HAVING DENOUNCED THIS ATTEMPT, HE ADDED: "FOLLOWING
THE TIMELY REVELATION MADE BY THE COMRADE PRESIDENT TO THE MEMBERS
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OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS CONCERNING OPERATION COBRA 77, WE NOW
HAVE A NEW EFFORT ON THE PART OF CERTAIN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH, CLOSE TO OUR FRONTIERS, ARE
ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF OUR
PEOPLE, AND TRYING TO CAUSE THE REBIRTH OF PUPPET ORGANIZATIONS WITH
WHICH
WE ARE FAMILIAR".
AFTER THIS INTRODUCTION, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PROCEEDED TO READ THE COMMUNIQUE IN QUESTION WHICH REFLECTS, AS
HE INDICATED HIMSELF "THE POSITION OF OUR GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD
TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH, FROM WITHIN INTERNATIONAL OR-
GANIZATIONS, ARE AGAIN IN THE PROCESS OF INTERFERING IN THE IN-

TERNAL PROBLEMS OF OUR COUNTRY". THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE
FOLLOWS".THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS THAT WAS SENT EARLIER.
WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SEVERAL TELEPHONE CALLS FROM DIPLOMATIC
MISSION AND AGENCIES IN THE UN SYSTEM FOR FULLER DETAILS.
YOUR URGENT INSTRUCTIONS AWAITED. BWAKIRA
P.S. LAST MINUTE INFORMATION. THE MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY
MINISTER HAS BEEN ADVANCED AND IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY AT
3:00.

C. UNHCR'S RESPONSE TO ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUE
WAS CONTAINED IN MESSAGE TO BWAKIRA DATED MARCH 9,
REPEATED TO DAYAL IN NEW YORK, WHICH FOLLOWS: QUOTE

REFERENCE YOUR 86 AND 87 RECEIVED TODAY, WHOSE CONTENT WAS
CLOSELY STUDIED AT HEADQUARTERS, PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING AS
UNHCR RESPONSE.

" THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WAS NOTIFIED, IN AN
INFORMAL FRENCH TRANSLATION, OF THE COMMUNIQUE SENT BY THE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN ANGOLA,
MR. NICHOLAS BWAKIRA ON MARCH 8,1977. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
WISHES TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT
THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS:
AS THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF WILL RECALL, THE UN HIGH
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COMMISSARIAT IS AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE ACTIVITIES IN EVERY IN-
STANCE MAINTAIN A STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN AND APOLITICAL CHARACTER.
THE RESPECT FOR THIS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE HAS ENABLED THE
HIGH COMMISSARIAT, SINCE ITS CREATION, TO LEND ASSISTANCE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS WHO NEED
ITS HELP.

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O 101850Z MAR 77
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USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

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THANKS TO THE RESPECT FOR THIS PRINCIPLE, THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT HAS BEEN ABLE TO COUNT ON THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE UN MEMBER STATES.

IT IS EVIDENT THAT IN THIS SPIRIT, AND CONFORMING TO THE TERMS OF ITS STATUTE, THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT REFUSES TO LEND ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHOSE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UN, AND IN PARTICULAR TO THOSE WHO TAKE UP ARMS TO ENDANGER THE SECURITY OR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE BEEN FIRMLY REITERATED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DURING THE 27TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY OBSERVERS OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SPECIFICALLY STATED ON THAT OCCASION: "I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT, CONSIDERING BOTH THE 1951 CONVENTION AND THE UNHCR MANDATE, INDIVIDUALS WORKING CONTRARY TO THE GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UN ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE BENEFITS OF REFUGEE STATUS.

IF SUCH ACTIONS ARE COMMITTED BY REFUGEES, THEY CONSTITUTE NOT ONLY AN AFFRONT TO HUMAN CONSCIENCE, WHICH CONDEMNS THEM, BUT ALSO AN OUTRAGE TO THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY LIVE WHICH, FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, GRANTED THEM ASYLUM AND OFFERED THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD THEIR LIFE. CONSEQUENTLY, THESE REFUGEES NOT ONLY VIOLATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WHICH PROTECTS THEM, BUT ALSO SERIOUSLY RISK LOSING
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ALL THE ADVANTAGES WHICH THEIR ADOPTIVE COUNTRY HAS OFFERED THEM".

IT IS CLEARLY OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT WOULD DEPART FROM THESE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES IN ITS ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES IN COUNTRIES BORDERING THE ANGOLAN REPUBLIC. TO DISCHARGE THEIR HUMANITARIAN MISSION, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT ARE CALLED UPON TO KNOW PERSONALLY THE SITUATION OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM THEY ARE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. THIS MEANS THAT THEY CAN BE CALLED UPON TO GO TO ANY PART OF THE AREA OF THE COUNTRY TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT HAS ALWAYS, FOR ITS PART, FAVORED THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO A REASONABLE DISTANCE FROM BORDER AREAS, WHERE THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT CREATE OR MAINTAIN TENSIONS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND THE RECEIVING COUNTRY, THIS CONCERN ITSELF BEING IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OAU ON THIS SUBJECT.

AS FOR THE PRESSURES WHICH COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT TO CONDUCT ITS ACTIONS IN A MANNER FAVORING SPECIAL INTERESTS, THE HIGH COMMISSARIAT ACCOUNTS FOR ITS ACTION, TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALONE, AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO PRECEIVE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND ITS INTEGRITY IN THE SERVICE OF THE HIGHER CAUSES WHICH IT PROTECTS.

THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS COMMUNICATION WOULD BE GIVEN THE SAME DISSEMINATION AS THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DATED MARCH 8".

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR SOME TIME, UPON THE REQUEST OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THAT JAEGER, DIRECTOR OF ASSISTANCE, GO TO ZAIRE IN ORDER TO INFORM HIMSELF ON THE SCENE AND PERSONALLY OF THE EXACT SITUATION OF THE GROUP IN QUESTION.

IF SUCH SHOULD BE THE WISH OF THE ANGLOAN AUTHORITIES,
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JAEGER WOULD BE ABLE TO PROCEED TO LUANDA TO SHARE WITH THEM THE CONCLUSIONS OF HIS MISSION WHICH HE WOULD HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

RE 5, OF 86, A NOTE VERBALE SEEMS TO US SUFFICIENT AT THIS POINT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PARTICULARLY THE LAST PARAGRAPH. WE ARE INFORMING NEW YORK AND ADDIS ABABA OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VARIOUS EARLIER COMMUNICATIONS. SIGNED UNHCR GENERAL UNQTE

2. COINCIDENTALLY, FOLLOWING CEREMONY THIS MORNING IN WHICH AMBASSADOR FORMALLY PRESENTED 1.4 MILLION DOLLAR U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN VOLUNTARILY TOOK UP MATTER WITH HIM AND MINISTER-COUNSELOR, SETTING FORTH DETAILS ESSENTIALLY AS GIVEN IN FOREGOING COMMUNICATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WE FEEL THAT EMBASSY KINSHASA'S SURMISE AS TO NOEL(S) PROBABLE HAND IN THIS AFFAIR (PARA 2, REF B) MAY BE WELL FOUNDED. OF GREATER IMPORTANCE, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNHCR HEADQUARTERS ENTERTAINS SIMILAR SUSPICIONS, TO WHICH JAEGER HAS SURELY BEEN EXPOSED. WE FEEL HE WILL BE ALERT TO ANY INDICATIONS OF SUCH SHENANIGANS WHEN HE ARRIVES IN KINSHASA EARLY SUNDAY MORNING. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SREF, PFOR, CG, AO
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